



[Home](#) > [HR Practitioners](#) > [Classification & Position Management](#) > [PD Library](#)

## Physical Scientist 07

---

### GS-1301-07

NOTE: THE SENTENCE IN PART I DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE OF THE POSITION AND PARTS II AND III IN THEIR ENTIRETY ARE PERMANENT PARTS OF THE LIBRARY AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED OR EDITED IN ANY WAY.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in:

This position serves as an intermediate physical scientist trainee, conducting a variety of routine, limited analyses requiring professional knowledge of a combination of several physical science fields or a specialized one not identified with other existing series.

#### II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Receives continuing formal and on-job training in the functions and operations of the organization, agency policies and regulations, the specialty area in which the unit is concerned, analyses and procedures performed, and operation and calibration of common instruments.

Based upon previous assignments or instructions as to specific analyses and tests to be performed, selects appropriate methods and procedures for various technical assessments.

Performs routine analyses for a variety of requests. Independently selects and carries out established methods and procedures to make determinations for various purposes. Reviews requests in view of background information, agency reports on similar situations, and pertinent guidelines.

Performs analyses and tests which may include physical measurements, laboratory tests and instrumental analyses. Performs routine calculations, and writes reports identifying the procedures, results, validity, and conclusions.

#### III. FACTOR LEVELS

Factor 1 - Knowledge Required FL 1-6, 950 pts.

Knowledge of principles, theories, and practices of one or more physical sciences, and knowledge of laws and regulations relating to the specialty area, sufficient to perform routine, limited duties. Skill in using standard instruments and routine processes.

Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls FL 2-2, 125 pts.

Supervisor assigns individual projects with clear instructions as to the analyses and results required. For new or more difficult assignments, supervisor also provides instructions on methods and procedures. Employee independently completes recurring assignments, but refers all deviations and problems not covered by instructions to supervisor or higher level scientist. Work is reviewed for adherence to instructions and standard procedures. New or more difficult assignments are reviewed more closely, including in-progress reviews.

Factor 3 - Guidelines FL 3-2, 125 pts.

Methods, procedures, and precedents are established in manuals, and standard operating procedures. For each project, employee exercises judgment in selecting appropriate methods and procedures to complete projects.

Employee refers situations where the guides do not apply, to supervisor or higher level scientist with a recommended action.

Factor 4 - Complexity FL 4-3, 150 pts.

Assignments deal with a variety of issues and involve various determinations. Employee considers various factors such as the physical properties, information requested, and the expected results to select appropriate established methods to use. Usually problems encountered can be solved by minor modification of established methods and procedures.

Factor 5 - Scope and Effect FL 5-2, 75 pts.

Work consists of intermediate trainee work to orient employee in mission and work of the unit. It involves small projects, and portions of larger projects. Work results affect accuracy and reliability of the services provided by the unit.

Factor 6 - Personal Contacts FL 6-1, 10 pts.

Personal contacts are with other scientists and technicians within the unit.

Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts FL 7-1, 20 pts.

Contacts are to receive advice and assistance and to report the progress and results of the work.

Factor 8 - Physical Demands FL 8-1, 5 pts.

Work is primarily sedentary.

Factor 9 - Work Environment FL 9-1, 5 pts.

Work is performed in a typical office setting.

TOTAL = 1,460 pts.

This position is non-exempt from coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

#### **IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

(Last Updated: November 4, 1994)

---

[Website Feedback](#)   [About OHRM](#)   [Contact Us](#)   [DOCHROC](#)   [FOIA](#)   [Site Map](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)   [Commerce Homepage](#)   [Careers at Commerce](#)  
[Commerce Employees](#)   [HR Practitioners](#)